

Descendants
of
Willis and
Sarah Farris Rayborn



Compiled By: Lutie R. Lawrence, 1985

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CHAPTER I

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Preface

According to verified data, Willis Rayborn was a son of Anthony and Nancy Rayborn. I have not found any source to lead me to the identity of Nancy's maiden name.

Willis Rayborn married Sarah Farris and, according to Mr. Estus Rayborn and Mrs. Retha Rayborn Dunaway, I have arrived with the total of ten children to this union. Willis and Sarah are buried in the Providence Baptist Church Cemetery in Lawrence County, Mississippi.

There is also an inscription in the same cemetery that leads me to believe that it belongs to their oldest son, Issac. The inscription reads:
I.E. Rayborn Co. H 39 Miss. Inf. CSA.

Another inscription indicates more fully that the above belongs to Issac. He married a wife whose name was Susie. The marker reveals:
Susie, wife of I.E. Rayborn, born June 3, 1884 and died May 14, 1909.

Issac Rayborn's granddaughter, Mrs. Jim Alexander Dunaway, told me that Issac married Susie Moore.

The following pages will contain the data that I have been able to collect over a period of several years by visiting family members, writing to them, calling them on the phone, visiting numerous cemeteries, checking Bible records, census and marriage records, personal knowledge and copying down things that I heard others say.

I realize the records herein contained are not complete and that I am capable of making mistakes; so any errors or omissions will not occur on purpose. Maybe you have additional information that you can add to make it more complete.

To obtain these marvelous records, I have been enriched in more ways than one and I can honestly say that I am proud to be a Rayborn. No doubt you, too, will feel a closeness you have not heretofore experienced as you pore over the pages seeking your kinsmen.

I have attempted to take all the children of Willis and Sarah Rayborn and record as much information that I have accumulated since my quest began. I have chosen the 1-2-3 method for this book, staggering to the right for each generation. I hope you will have no problem following it.

First, I will name the Rayborns as far back as I am able to ascertain and follow the genealogy through to Willis and Sarah Rayborn.

GENERAL INFORMATION

b. is for birth, born.

ca. is for about.

ch. is for child, children.

d. is for dead, death, died.

dau. is for daughter.

div. is for divorced.

M. is for married, marriage.

Wm. is for William.

yrs. is for years.

? means that I am not sure.

There is no name index.

A Coat of Arms is supplied in the book "Mark Rayborn and Rhoda Rayborn Their Antecedents and Descendents" by Vada H. Phillips and Henry S. Phillips, Jr. of Hattiesburg, MS. The spelling for the Coat of Arms is RAYBURN.

Though I am aware of the several ways the name is spelled, I have chosen RAYBORN for this book, with no offense intended to those who spell it any other way.

The first chapter introduces the Rayborns who preceed Willis and his family.

The other chapters will deal with each child of Willis and Sarah Farris Rayborn treated in a chapter all their own: Issac, Mary Ann, Joseph, William (Bill), Jane, Nancy, Jonathan (John), Malissa, Martha and Ollie.

Joseph Raborn, Sr. was born in South Carolina and came to the Pike County area in 1698. I have found no date of his birth, but he died January 12, 1793. His wife was listed as Ann, who also died in 1793. Their children have been given as follows:

1. Alexander. No other data.
2. George. b. 1775 and d. 1833
3. Anthony. b. 1776 and d. September 14, 1832
4. Joseph, Jr. b. 1779
5. John
6. Sarah
7. Susannah. b. 1786
8. William. b. 1789
9. Ann
10. Elizabeth
11. Mary



Sarah Farris & Willis Rayborn

1. Alexander
2. George Raborn M. Rachel Gordon 4-15-1805
3. Anthony will be treated on pages to follow.
4. Joseph, Jr. M. Sarah, b. 1786
5. John
6. Sarah M. Thomas Farris 8-14-1811

7. Susannah M. Henry Clark 6-8-1809
8. William
9. Ann Raborn M. Mark Burnett 6-14-1809
10. Elizabeth Raborn M. John Hall 3-29-1849.
11. Mary Raborn

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3. Anthony Rayborn is believed to have been married prior to his marriage to Nancy. In Lawrence County Courthouse the following appears: Box 16 Case 143 Lawrence County - Futch Hickman vs. Vincent Jones

In the above case mentioned, Anthony's and Nancy's children are thus named:

Matilda, who M. John Futch.	Elcy, who M. James (not readable).
Polly, who M. Smith Green.	Jenny, who M. Daniel Hickman.
Nancy, who M. Rubin Clanke.	Melissa Ann. who M.
Betsey, who M. Joseph Price.	Lewis
Rebecca, who M. Benjamin Davis.	Lucinda, who M. George Brister.
Sally, who M. Sanden Wilkinson.	

The treatment that I will attempt to give Anthony's family:

Anthony Rayborn was born in 1776 and died September 14, 1832. If he was married before, it is believed that he must have Nancy before 1803, for their first child was born that year.

3. Anthony Rayborn..... b. 1776 d. 9-14-1832
- 1.
 2. Nancy M. prior to 1803
- Ch. 1. Rhoda..... b. ca. 1803
2. George..... b. ca. 1804
 3. Jesse.....
 4. Sam.....
 5. Lewis..... b. 1810?
 6. Willis..... b. 1811 (However, I have other info that states his birth in 1814.)
6. Willis Rayborn..... 1814 8-13-1906
- Sarah Farris..... 4-26-1818 8-21-1906
- M. 2-28-1836
- Ch. 1. Issac 5-3-1837
2. Mary Ann..... 1-25-1840 3-17-1931
 3. Joseph..... 3-3-1842 1-12-1922
 4. William (Bill)..... 3-27-1844 ca. 1930
 5. Jane..... 12-4-1846
 6. Nancy..... 5-24-1849 3-1-1929
 7. John..... 1-12-1852 7-10-1912
 8. Malissa..... 6-12-1854
 9. Martha..... 7-22-1857 1939
 10. Ollie..... 10-29-1859 1955

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This picture was in the possession of Mrs. Perry Roberts, a descendant of Joseph Rayborn and Samantha Jones Reeves. She named some of the Alexan the photo, but I failed to jot them down. While many of them cannot be identified by yours truly, I can readily name a few. From the left, the first adult st in the second row is my mother, Nettie Jones Rayborn. The second adult from the left who is seated on the front row is Willis Rayborn. Next to him is h Sarah Farris Rayborn. Their son, William, is seated next to Sarah, and William's son, Joseph (Joe) is the second from the right. Henry Strange is st behind Joe in the second row to the right. Ada Rayborn Strange is standing between Sarah and William Rayborn. Nora Deer Rayborn is standing Sarah. The face to the left of the "blotch" is Molly Cook Rayborn. Someone said the face that is "scratched out" was an old Negro man. I have wonder person leaning against the post to the left of the photo is my father, Stanford Rayborn? William Issac Rayborn is the second from the left on the ba

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Matthews Rabun was born 1744, died in his 75th year, May 14th, 1819. It is not known positively where he was born.

He married Sarah Warren, daughter of Rebecca Randolph, of Williamsburg, Virginia, and — Warren, Professor at William and Mary College. About the year 1785, accompanied by his wife and children, Jane, Elizabeth, Sarah, Martha, and William, who was later Governor of Georgia, he moved from Halifax County, North Carolina to Wilkes County, Georgia, where he resided for one year. The next year he moved to Hancock County, where he settled on a plantation about one mile from Mayfield, and a few miles from Powelton.

On page 477 of White's Historical Collection of Georgia, Matthews Rabun is mentioned as one of the earliest settlers of Green County. When Matthews Rabun came to Georgia, he brought with him a highly commendatory letter of introduction, signed by

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four leading citizens of Halifax Township. A copy which follows:

North Carolina, March 11, 1784.

Mr. Matthews Rabun, having an intention of going to Georgia to view the lands in that state, and to secure land there in order to remove himself and family to become inhabitants of said State, we, Wiley Jones, John Whitaker, John Geddy, John Branch, having been long and well acquainted with Matthews Rabun, beg to recommend him to the notice and attention of all the good people.

Mr. Rabun has upon all occasions conducted himself as a zealous Whig and a good citizen and we are confident will be a valuable addition to any community into which he shall be received. Given under our hand March 11, 1784.

WILEY JONES.
JOHN WHITAKER.
JOHN GEDDY, J. P.
JOHN BRANCH, J. P.

In the year 1798, Matthews Rabun was sent as one of the representatives of Hancock County, Georgia to Louisville, the capital of Georgia, to take part in the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention, at which time a constitution was adopted that lasted the State of Georgia over half a century.

Matthews Rabun had a sister, whose name was Martha, who married Edward Crowell of Halifax, North Carolina, (page 199, book 11. Historical Sketches of North Carolina, by John Wheeler). A sketch of the Crowell family is given, and the marriage of Martha Rabun noted. It is also stated that Crowell was a descendant of Edward Cromwell, of England, and explains the dropping of the letter "M" from the name.

Sarah Warren married Matthews Rabun before he moved to Georgia from Halifax County, North

Carolina, in 1784. She was the mother of all his children, and I presume she lived to move to Georgia with him. She was a twin sister to Jane Warren who married Joseph Borden, of Virginia, a member of a famous Virginia family. Joseph Borden and his wife, Jane, are the ancestors of all the Sasnett family in Georgia. Benjamin Borden, the father of Joseph, was grantee of vast lands in Virginia, including nearly the whole of Bolecourt County.

Jane, (1766-1855) oldest daughter of Sarah Warren and Matthews Rabun married John Veazy (1768-1847). He stood side by side with those who formed the first Missionary Society of Georgia, and was a deacon in his church for many years.

The children of Jane Rabun and John Veazy were: John ———; Sarah, married Richard Burnley, brother of Mrs. Malcolm Johnston, who was the mother of Richard Malcolm Johnston, the author.

Their children were: Martha and Mary; Martha married Thomas Seals; she died near Powellton, Ga., at the age of fourteen years and eleven mnths. She left one daughter, Sarah, who afterwards married Monroe Davenport. After the death of Martha, Thomas Seals married her sister, Mary, and to them were born William B., John H., Thomas Richard, and Martha; who married Mr. James F. Little, of Talbot County, Georgia. After the death of Thomas Seals, his widow married A. B. Phelps, and their children were: Ansel, Charlie, and Alice, who married Mr. W. J. Kincaid, of Griffin, Georgia.

———, the second daughter of Jane Rabun and John Veazy married Thomas Whaley. They had one son, Sanders and one daughter, Eliza Jane, who married Ben Medlock.

Elizabeth; the third daughter of Jane Rabun and John Veazy married her first cousin, Henry McClellan. They had no children.

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Also See:

- 1. Rayburn, Clara, Ellen Ball & Relatives*
- 2. Fulmers of the Dutch Fork*
- 3. Thomas Rayburn, Sr., - His descendants & Relatives*